

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a microorganism-immobilized carrier for removing an exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical in water, the method comprising:

mixing microorganisms, a hydrophilic prepolymer having a hydrophilic group, and a hydrophobic prepolymer having a hydrophobic group, wherein a mixing ratio of the hydrophobic prepolymer to the total weight of the hydrophilic prepolymer and the hydrophobic prepolymer falls within a range of 1% to 40%; and

polymerizing the hydrophilic prepolymer and the hydrophobic prepolymer to form the microorganism-immobilized carrier within which the microorganisms are inclusively immobilized, the microorganism-immobilized carrier being provided with the hydrophilic group and the hydrophobic group, the microorganisms decomposing the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) A microorganism-immobilized carrier produced by the method according to claim 9.

12-14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) A method of removing an exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical in water, the method comprising:

loading the microorganism-immobilized carrier according to claim 11 into a reaction vessel; and

flowing the water containing the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical into the reaction vessel, thereby bringing the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical into contact with the microorganism-immobilized carrier and decomposing the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical.

16-18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) A method of removing an exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical in water, the method comprising bringing the water into contact with the microorganism-immobilized carrier of claim 11, wherein exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical in said water is decomposed by microorganisms in said microorganism-immobilized carrier.

20-24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein said hydrophilic prepolymer comprises ethyleneoxy and said hydrophobic prepolymer comprises propyleneoxy.

26-27. (Canceled).